



## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1988

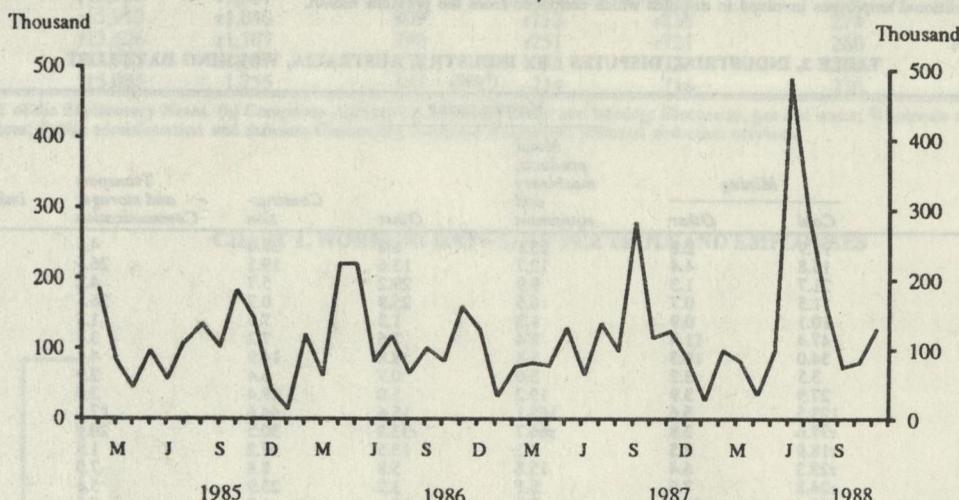
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### MAIN FEATURES

#### WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



The number of working days lost in November 1988 increased by 58.6% to 131,600 from 83,000 in October 1988. There were 159 disputes reported for November 1988, an increase of 7.4% over the previous month (148). The number of employees involved increased by 38.6% from 40,900 in October 1988 to 56,700 in November 1988.

In November 1988, the Coal mining industry reported 53,400 working days lost, an increase of 115% over the 24,800 working days lost in October 1988. Other mining industries reported 33,100 working days lost in November, an increase of 336% over the 7,600 days lost in October. Manufacturing (other than Metal products, machinery and equipment) also recorded an increase of 372% from 3,200 working days lost in October to 15,100 in November. However, Construction showed a large fall from 23,900 working days lost in October to 1,700 in November.

The industries with the highest working days lost per thousand employees for the twelve months ended November 1988 continue to be Coal mining (15,025) and Other mining (1,755). The November average for all industries is 276 working days lost per thousand employees.

Queensland recorded the highest monthly increase in industrial disputes (in terms of working days lost) of 160% for November 1988, while New South Wales recorded an increase of 79%.

### NOTES

The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and public sector) and trade unions concerning individual disputes, and from reports of government authorities.

The statistics relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred.

Explanatory notes are published on pages 5 and 6 of this publication.

This publication contains revisions to previously published figures of working days lost per thousand employees. See paragraph 11, page 5.

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes(a)		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(b)	Newly involved(c)	Total(b)	
1987	September	r119	r134	60.3	84.9
	October	136	151	60.6	64.5
	November	160	181	86.0	97.8
	December	96	115	34.8	49.7
1988	January	81	86	12.2	12.6
	February	139	149	44.0	58.1
	March	168	187	34.7	41.9
	April	100	108	19.8	21.2
	May	147	159	57.4	68.5
	June	165	186	364.0	374.5
	July	r91	r107	r117.5	r192.8
	August	142	r151	r107.1	r116.2
	September	109	r121	r33.7	r49.7
	October	136	148	r36.3	r40.9
	November	143	159	50.1	56.7
	<i>Twelve months ended—</i>				
November 1986		r1,752	r1,765	671.2	676.4
1987		r1,515	r1,540	r590.5	r607.6
1988		1,517	1,537	911.6	926.5
December 1985		r1,876	r1,895	r52.7	570.5
1986		r1,747	r1,754	673.9	691.7
1987		r1,512	r1,517	593.4	608.8

(a) See paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (c) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	Manufacturing								All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Construction		Transport and storage; Communication		
	Coal	Other	Other	Construction	Other	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)		
1987	September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	4.5	108.9	282.6
	October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	26.5	25.1	117.6
	November	21.7	1.3	9.9	29.2	5.7	4.2	54.7	126.7
	December	11.5	0.7	6.5	25.9	0.7	26.5	14.6	86.5
	January	10.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.5	1.5	6.6	29.2
	February	47.4	11.4	8.4	7.6	7.2	3.4	15.1	100.5
	March	34.0	10.3	3.8	8.8	14.9	4.4	8.6	84.8
	April	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.7	6.4	2.9	16.3	36.6
	May	27.9	3.9	19.2	5.0	29.4	3.0	12.6	101.0
	June	123.5	5.6	168.1	15.6	64.6	17.4	93.4	488.3
	July	r77.6	3.8	r66.7	r33.9	30.5	20.0	65.3	r297.8
	August	r18.9	8.3	9.3	13.5	r7.2	1.8	107.2	r166.2
1988	September	r25.3	6.4	15.8	5.8	8.8	7.0	7.2	r76.3
	October	r24.8	7.6	5.1	3.2	23.9	5.4	12.9	r83.0
	November	53.4	33.1	7.3	15.1	1.7	7.4	13.5	131.6
	<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
November 1986		367.9	171.0	186.4	194.5	112.3	61.4	213.4	1,306.9
1987		r293.0	66.4	197.5	183.3	r202.6	67.1	r344.3	r1,354.2
1988		457.9	95.4	315.2	136.5	202.8	100.5	373.4	1,681.7
December 1985		r233.6	106.4	r108.1	189.4	175.3	r179.8	263.7	1,256.2
1986		362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7
1987		291.8	55.7	199.6	195.5	194.5	92.5	282.3	1,311.9

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1987	September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	2.1	1.1	1.0
	October	61.2	37.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	0.4	2.6
	November	88.6	9.7	16.2	2.5	7.3	1.3	0.2	0.8
	December	47.6	26.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	5.4	0.2	0.7
1988	January	9.6	1.6	13.2	0.6	3.4	0.3	0.4	29.2
	February	62.7	9.5	7.8	5.3	12.4	0.9	1.2	100.5
	March	26.5	13.2	21.4	0.7	17.2	3.4	1.4	84.8
	April	10.7	13.1	3.3	1.3	5.3	1.5	0.2	36.6
	May	39.3	5.8	45.8	2.6	5.1	0.9	0.9	101.0
	June	269.0	64.7	94.2	23.4	24.8	3.5	1.3	488.3
	July	r48.6	181.8	49.8	4.7	9.7	2.9	0.2	r297.8
	August	r120.5	21.2	r6.8	4.1	7.3	3.5	1.7	1.2
	September	r30.2	22.7	12.8	0.6	9.1	0.1	—	0.8
	October	r31.5	7.4	11.3	1.1	30.1	0.8	0.5	0.3
	November	56.3	10.1	29.4	1.0	33.1	0.7	0.2	0.8
	<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
November 1986		602.3	302.3	r171.7	r44.5	132.9	29.8	11.7	11.6
1987		r716.6	r341.5	76.2	45.6	127.6	23.4	6.5	r1,354.2
1988		752.6	377.3	298.6	47.8	158.7	24.0	8.0	1,681.7
December 1985		398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	11.5	17.9
1986		598.8	381.8	173.3	46.3	143.1	29.2	11.8	6.5
1987		744.8	281.4	73.7	44.6	115.3	28.0	6.5	17.5

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Manufacturing								All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication		Other industries (b)		
	Coal	Other				Other	Construction			
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248		
1985	r6,892	r1,928	r256	312	666	r430	71	228		
1986	r10,741	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>										
1986—										
November	r10,920	r3,141	441	312	437	143	55	228		
<i>1987—</i>										
November	r8,886	r1,286	474	287	r778	r157	r85	231		
December	r8,920	r1,072	479	305	743	217	70	223		
<i>1988—</i>										
January	r9,258	r820	474	302	r741	213	r70	r221		
February	r9,845	r984	481	286	r734	216	r71	225		
March	r10,791	r1,094	440	280	716	r215	71	r226		
April	r10,504	r1,078	384	265	705	208	r73	218		
May	r10,498	r1,109	336	233	735	r202	73	212		
June	14,292	r1,121	715	234	910	r236	93	282		
July	r15,760	r1,001	819	r264	r858	278	107	r308		
August	r15,913	r1,040	807	r252	r835	274	126	r318		
September	r13,626	r1,107	790	r251	r721	280	r101	r283		
October	r13,955	r1,167	772	r235	r733	230	r98	r276		
November	15,025	1,755	767	214	716	238	88	276		

(a) See paragraphs 9 and 11 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

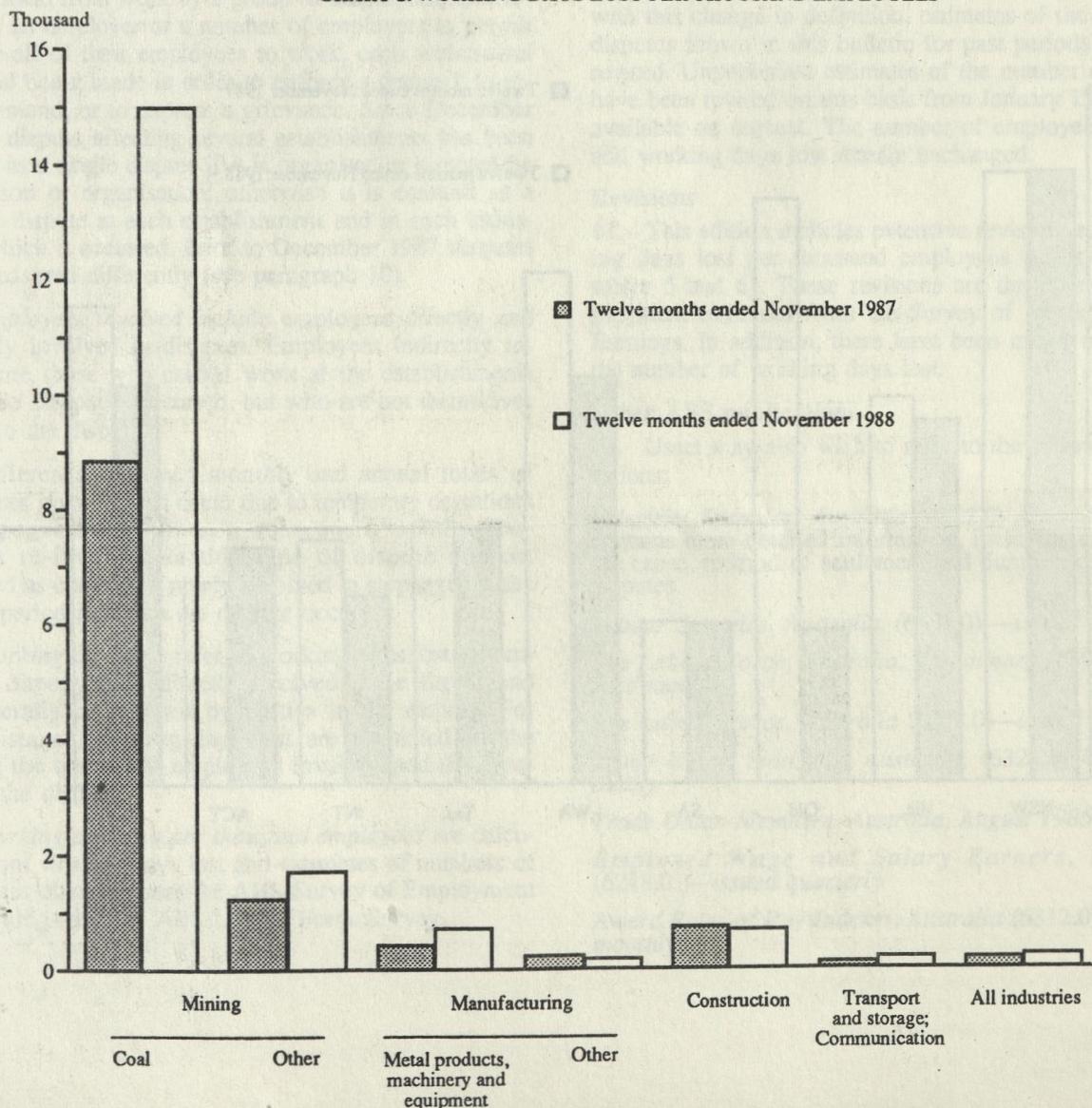
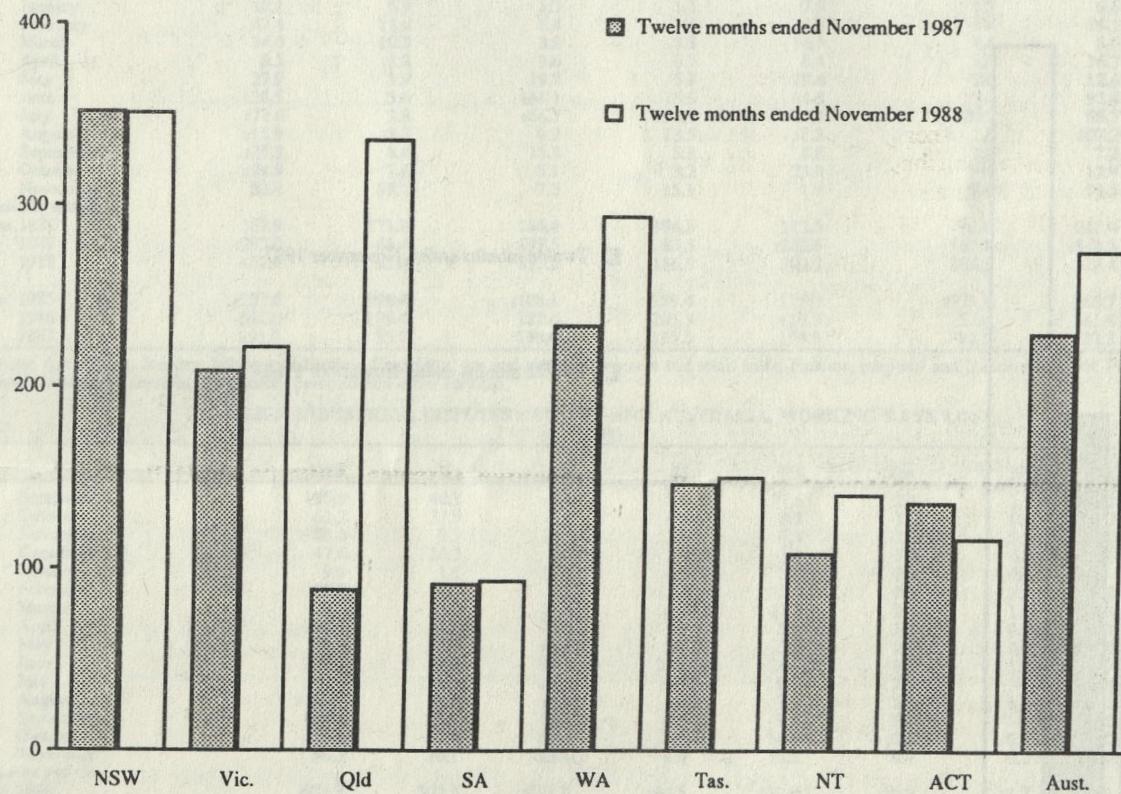


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1984	357	132	302	56	256	350	381	88	248
1985	209	236	411	48	187	138	213	159	228
1986	304	240	r208	r95	272	190	r200	55	242
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>									
<i>1986—</i>									
November	306	191	206	92	r254	194	198	98	228
<i>1987—</i>									
November	r353	r210	90	93	235	148	110	138	231
December	r366	r172	87	91	r213	177	111	143	223
<i>1988—</i>									
January	r362	r170	101	90	r193	177	r118	134	r221
February	r369	r164	107	100	208	180	r126	108	225
March	r360	r163	129	97	r219	194	r138	104	r226
April	r338	r164	r128	96	221	r190	r118	100	218
May	r313	r151	173	90	r226	r180	r123	103	212
June	r431	r179	268	126	257	r194	r137	145	282
July	r413	r272	r315	116	r270	r163	r134	132	r308
August	r459	r254	r316	r114	r256	r173	r163	139	r318
September	r383	r243	r318	r105	r204	r160	143	r137	r283
October	r368	224	r324	98	247	r156	r143	118	r276
November	352	223	337	95	295	152	142	118	276

(a) See paragraphs 9 and 11 of the Explanatory Notes.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

1. The statistics in this publication relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The statistics of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes only (as defined in paragraph 4). Effects on other establishments, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included. Details shown in this publication refer to disputes *in progress* during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and public sector), from trade unions and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes as defined below.

### Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees, or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. Since December 1987, a dispute affecting several establishments has been counted as a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation; otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment and in each industry in which it occurred. Prior to December 1987 disputes were measured differently (see paragraph 10).

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those who ceased work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are not classified as employees newly involved in stoppages in the second period in which the dispute occurs.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes, working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per thousand employees* are calculated from working days lost and estimates of numbers of employees obtained from the ABS Survey of Employment and Earnings and the ABS Labour Force Survey.

### Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in agriculture and in private households, obtained from the Labour Force Survey. Estimates have been recalculated on this basis for each month back to June 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987, the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

10. The basis for the calculation of the number of disputes was changed in December 1987 (see paragraph 4). Before that date, where the causes of several disputes were the same (e.g. National Wage Case disputes) the disputes were counted as one dispute, irrespective of whether they were directed or organised by one person or organisation, or whether the dispute occurred in more than one industry. The reason for the change was to align the method of counting the number of disputes with the International Labour Organisation guidelines. In accordance with this change in definition, estimates of the number of disputes shown in this bulletin for past periods have been revised. Unpublished estimates of the number of disputes have been revised on this basis from January 1985 and are available on request. The number of employees involved and working days lost remain unchanged.

### Rewrites

11. This edition includes extensive revisions to the working days lost per thousand employees series (shown in tables 5 and 6). These revisions are due to revised employment estimates from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. In addition, there have been minor revisions to the number of working days lost.

### Other ABS publications

12. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information, including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia*, (6101.0)—issued annually

*The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0) — issued monthly

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Trade Union Statistics, Australia*, (6323.0)—issued annually

*Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986* (6325.0)

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0)—issued quarterly

*Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia* (6312.0) — issued monthly

## Unpublished statistics

13. In some cases, the ABS can also provide information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout, clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

14. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

## Symbols and other usages

r estimates revised since last issue  
 — nil or rounded to zero

15. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies

may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## Electronic services

**VIATEL.** Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

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